

SECRET-EYES ONLY

Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80R01284A001800040057-2

28 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 28 March 1968

[REDACTED]

25X

DD/I reported that a preliminary readout of the first SR-71 mission indicates that 80 percent of its target area was covered. (See Action 1)

DD/I advised that field readout of photography from 21 March indicates a possible FROG surface-to-surface missile northwest of Dong Hoi.

[REDACTED]

25X

DD/I referred to the completion of an OER memorandum assaying the role of economic pressures in bringing about change in Eastern Europe. (See Action 2)

Godfrey reported that a F-111 was lost last night, probably over Laos, for undetermined causes.

Godfrey observed that the Warsaw students have announced they will be out in strength today and that the police are indicating they will not hesitate to use force in coping with the demonstrators.

25X

[REDACTED]

25X

D/ONE advised that two footnotes have been proposed in connection with the Estimate on the potential for revolution in Latin America and that they appear to be acceptable.

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D/ONE advised that the Pakistan Estimate has been approved telephonically. DDCI and DD/I said that they have one minor change which can also be incorporated via telephone.

[REDACTED]

25X

D/ONE noted that ONE has prepared a strictly in-house paper assessing possible European reactions to further U. S. escalation in Vietnam.

DD/S reported that an Air America [REDACTED] employee captured in Laos in February by the North Vietnamese was returned early today.

25X

Warner advised that he delivered to Carl Marcy the letter to Senator Fulbright.

Warner noted that the Judiciary Committee approved the wiretap provisions of the McClellan bill by a vote of 12 to 1.

Warner advised that Congressman Fraser has requested information on the pacification program but that Congressman Morgan is undertaking to deflect the request.

DD/P made reference to an article in today's New York Times on NVA field hospitals in Cambodia and advised that, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FE Division is querying Saigon Station.

25X

Executive Director advised that the Bureau of the Budget's CIA examiner has requested a briefing on the RD program and that George Allen will oblige.

DDCI indicated that he called Admiral Lowrance yesterday concerning DIA publication of MACV strength figures. Admiral Lowrance has agreed to cease publishing such figures until after the CIA/DIA study has been completed.

25X

[REDACTED]

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ACTION:

1. DDCI asked DD/I for a report on the nature of the processing of SR-71 photography.
2. The Director asked that the OER memorandum on economic pressures in Eastern Europe receive wide distribution and, in particular, that Vice President Humphrey and Ambassador Bohlen receive copies.
3. The Director asked DD/P for a status report on John Downey and Richard Fecteau.
4. The Director asked DD/I to prepare a paper responsive to Ambassador Goldberg's request for an analysis of the Middle East political situation and U. S. alternatives therein in light of the apparent failure of the Jarring mission. (DD/I - By close of business 2 April)

[Redacted Signature]

L. K. White

25X

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~

28 MAR 1968

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A DEFECTOR TELLS OF FOE'S HOSPITALS

Surgeon Traces Locations
of 5 Stations in Cambodia

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 27—An enemy combat surgeon who defected to the allies said today that a North Vietnamese Army hospital system in Cambodia served soldiers fighting in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. During an interview at a Government center for defectors, the surgeon, Dr. Le Vinh Can, marked the location of five hospitals on a sketched map.

He placed an "X" midway between Kontum and Pleiku and six miles west of the Cambodian border to locate the largest hospital in the area.

"This is Hospital 84," he said through an interpreter. "It is a fixed hospital installation operating in the jungle, complete with beds and underground shelters. Its reception ward is large, with over 3,000 beds."

On a north-south axis 2½ miles west of the border, he located four hospitals about five miles apart. He said that they had about 1,000 beds each.

Mobile Units Formed

The two central hospitals in this line, Dr. Can said, were broken into smaller, mobile units late last summer, but like his own 33-man surgical team, they remained based in Cambodia and returned there after accompanying troops on sorties in South Vietnam.

"It is very possible that after I rallied to the Government last month they moved Hospital 84," Dr. Can said, "but that would be very difficult because of its size."

Dr. Can, who is 31 years old and a 1962 graduate of Hanoi Medical College, said that there were usually 1,500 to 2,000 patients in Hospital 84.

Although the field medical facilities were usually only three or four miles from the fighting, Dr. Can said, it might take a day and a half to two days for stretcher-bearers to make the trip through heavy jungles.

"A wounded man is carried in a hammock by two soldiers through the use of a pole," he said. "When the two soldiers are tired, two others take their places. Medical evacuation by vehicles or any other means has been impossible."

Evacuation Difficult

"Because of continual hostile air actions, the evacuation of wounded from battlefields has been a very difficult problem," he continued. "Consequently, a large number of wounded soldiers die due to delayed evacuation."

In large actions, he said, such as the one around Dakto last November, when in two hours 173 patients were brought in, only those in critical condition were operated on.

"In the surgical unit where I served there were patients who died due to a lack of medicine or blood for transfusion," he said. "We had a critical shortage of blood. We used only dry blood plasma, which, however, was scarce too. Of 500 wounded soldiers, eight or nine would die due to such shortage."

Dr. Can said that most of the medicine he used had been produced in China and the Soviet Union and that some had come from France. Vitamins came from Hanoi, he added.

He said that his unit moved every 5 to 14 days when it

was in South Vietnam.

"Everything was performed underground," he said. "Sometimes as we finished the preparations to receive the wounded we had to relocate again due to the combat conditions. All the preparations had to be repeated again, such as setting up laboratories, operation rooms. Sometimes no sooner had we arrived than

wounded began pouring in. In the present war, air actions usually inflict considerable casualties to the troops."

Dr. Can answered questions freely. He said that he had reluctantly entered the North Vietnamese Army six years ago and, for some time, had disagreed with his country's policies.

Once he had made his de-

cision, Dr. Can said that he had found defection difficult because his work kept him some distance from the front lines. He succeeded on his second at-